

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/540,892

Examiner

Guillermo Munoz

Applicant(s)

KAWATAKA, MIYUKI

Art Unit

2637

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed June 29, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 3-7 and 10-13, renumbered as 1-9, respectively.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 31 March 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.


Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


JEAN B. CORRIELUS
PRIMARY EXAMINER
11-26-04

DETAILED ACTION
EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Brian S. Myers on November 16, 2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 3; line 5, change "at the" to —at a—.

In claim 3; line 7, change "at the" to —at a—.

In claim 3; line 9, change "from the" to —from a—.

In claim 3; line 13, change "the position" to —a position—.

In claim 3; line 16, change "the" to —a—.

In claim 4; line 5, change "at the" to —at a—.

In claim 4; line 7, change "at the" to —at a—.

In claim 4; line 9, change "from the" to —from a—.

In claim 5; line 3, change "that the" to —that an—.

In claim 6; line 5, change "at the" to —at a—.

In claim 6; line 7, change "at the" to —at a—.

In claim 6; line 9, change "from the" to —from a—.

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In claim 7; line 5, change “at the” to —at a—.

In claim 7; line 7, change “at the” to —at a—.

In claim 7; line 9, change “from the” to —from a—.

In claim 7; line 12, change “a second” to —an out-of-sync—.

In claim 7; line 14, change “pattern” to —pattern, thereby indicating an out-of-sync state—.

In claim 10; line 3, change “in the” to —in—.

In claim 10; line 6, change “in order of detection at the” to —by the order in which patterns are detected at a—.

In claim 10; line 8, change “from the” to —from a—.

In claim 11; line 3, change “in the” to —in—.

In claim 11; line 6, change “in order of detection at the” to —by the order in which patterns are detected at a—.

In claim 11; line 8, change “from the” to —from a—.

In claim 12; line 3, change “that the” to —that an—.

In claim 13; line 3, change “in the” to —in—.

In claim 13; line 6, change “in order of detection at the” to —by the order in which patterns are detected at a—.

In claim 13; line 8, change “from the” to —from a—.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 3-7 and 10-13 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 3-7 and 10-13 are considered allowable because the present invention comprises a frame synchronization circuit having a first synchronizing unit for synchronizing to a first pattern in a first position of a received frame and a second synchronizing unit for synchronizing to a second pattern in a second position of the received frame. The frame synchronization circuit further includes a first error detection unit, which controls the first frame synchronizing unit to operate in accordance with the second position if the first position is different from the position of a first predetermined synchronization pattern. The closest prior art, Marutani (US Publication Number 2003/0161349 A1) teach a similar circuit including a first pattern synchronization unit and a second synchronization unit. However, Marutani fails to teach controlling the first synchronizing unit to operate in accordance with a second position if the position of the first synchronization unit is different than a first predetermined synchronization pattern. These distinct features have been included in independent claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 10, 11, and 13 rendering them allowable. Claims 5 and 12 are dependent upon allowed independent claims 4 and 11, and are thereby allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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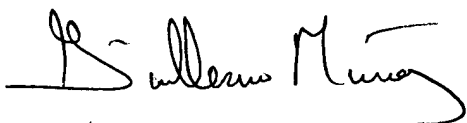
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Guillermo Munoz whose telephone number is 571-272-3045.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:30a.m-4:30p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jay Patel can be reached on 571-272-2988. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



GM
November 16, 2004



JEAN B. CORRIELUS
PRIMARY EXAMINER

11-26-04